

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Claim 1 (previously presented): A method of producing glass particles deposit, said method comprising:

disposing a plurality of glass particle synthesizing burners opposite to a rotating starting rod;

relatively reciprocally moving said starting rod and said glass particle synthesizing burners in parallel to an axial direction of said starting rod, wherein said starting rod and said glass particle synthesizing burners are reciprocally moved between at least two turn-back positions;

depositing glass particles synthesized by said burners on a surface of said starting rod,

wherein the relative movement is stopped and restarted at at least one point between two immediately adjacent turn-back positions, such that the relative movement continues in the same direction upon restarting as the relative movement immediately before stopping.

Claim 2 (original): The method of producing glass particles deposit as claimed in claim 1, wherein the plurality of glass particle synthesizing burners are disposed uniformly at predetermined burner intervals.

Claim 3 (original): The method of producing glass particles deposit as claimed in claim 2, wherein the plurality of glass particle synthesizing burners are disposed in a row in parallel to said starting rod.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The method of producing glass particles deposit as claimed in claim 2, wherein a moving distance in one direction of the reciprocal movement is set to twice the burner interval or shorter.

Claim 5 (original): The method of producing glass particles deposit as claimed in claim 4, wherein the moving distance in the one direction of the reciprocal movement is set substantially equal to or substantially twice of the burner interval.

Claim 6 (original): The method of producing glass particles deposit as claimed in claim 1, wherein a distance between the adjacent stop points including turn-back points of the relative movement is within the range of 5 to 40 mm.

Claim 7 (original): The method of producing glass particles deposit as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of depositing glass particles is terminated at a point of time when the burners arrive at the turn-back position of the reciprocal movement.

Claim 8 (original): The method of producing glass particles deposit as claimed in claim 5, wherein the step of depositing glass particles is terminated at a point of time when the burners arrive at the turn-back position of the reciprocal movement.

Claim 9 (original): The method of producing glass particles deposit as claimed in claim 1, wherein a stop time at stop point of the relative movement is set different from a stop time at the turn-back position of the reciprocal movement.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A method of producing glass particles deposit, said method comprising:

disposing a plurality of glass particle synthesizing burners opposite to a rotating starting rod;

relatively reciprocally moving said starting rod and said glass particle synthesizing burners in parallel to an axial direction of said starting rod;

depositing glass particles synthesized by said burners on a surface of said starting rod,

wherein the relative movement is stopped and restarted between at least two turn-back positions, such that the relative movement continues in the same direction upon restarting as the relative movement immediately before stopping.

Claim 11 (original): The method of producing glass particles deposit as claimed in claim 10, wherein the plurality of glass particle synthesizing burners are disposed uniformly at predetermined burner intervals.

Claim 12 (original): The method of producing glass particles deposit as claimed in claim 11, wherein the plurality of glass particle synthesizing burners are disposed in a row in parallel to said starting rod.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The method of producing glass particles deposit as claimed in claim 11, wherein a moving distance in one direction of the reciprocal movement is set to twice the burner interval or shorter.

Claim 14 (original): The method of producing glass particles deposit as claimed in claim 13, wherein the moving distance in the one direction of the reciprocal movement is set substantially equal to or substantially twice of the burner interval.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The method of producing glass particles deposit as claimed in claim 10, wherein a distance between ~~the~~ adjacent stop points including turn-back ~~points~~ positions of the relative movement is within the range of 5 to 40 mm.

Claim 16 (original): The method of producing glass particles deposit as claimed in claim 10, wherein the step of depositing glass particles is terminated at a point of time when the burners arrive at a turn-back position of the reciprocal movement.

Claim 17 (original): The method of producing glass particles deposit as claimed in claim 14, wherein the step of depositing glass particles is terminated at a point of time when the burners arrive at a turn-back position of the reciprocal movement.

Claim 18 (original): The method of producing glass particles deposit as claimed in claim 10, wherein a stop time at stop point of the relative movement is set different from a stop time at a turn-back position of the reciprocal movement.